

*(As we enter the sanctuary, let us quietly prepare our hearts and minds for worship. Please observe social distancing, keep your masks on while you are in the building, and please silence your cell phones for the duration of the service.)*

## **GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

### **SOUNDING OF THE HOUR**

### **WELCOME**

### **MINUTE FOR MISSION**

Hal Hunter

### **GREETING**

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made!

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

### **\*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL SINGING** *(see insert)*

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Immanuel, God-with-us, interrupt and open our eyes that we might catch a glimpse of your glory in the simplicity of these moments.

People: **May your light shine!**

Leader: Immanuel, God-with-us, interrupt and soften our hearts to the message of this hour, that we might turn toward you, and prepare the way in our hearts for your coming.

People: **May your light shine!**

Leader: Immanuel, God-with-us, interrupt and open our minds to truly listen to all that we might hear your voice cry out from many lips.

People: **May your light shine!**

Leader: Immanuel, God-with-us, interrupt and fill our spirits with the courage to admit when we are lost and the insight to recognize that we have been found.

People: **May your light shine!**

Leader: Immanuel, God-with-us, with eyes open, hearts softened, minds listening, and spirits full, we rejoice that you interrupt what we have in mind in order to bring into being something more than we dare imagine.

People: **May Christ's light shine into all the world!**

### **\*OPENING PRAYER**

### **\*HYMN OF PRAISE # 133**

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

*(Few moments of silent prayer)*

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Leader: We pursue power and money, yet you come in weakness.

People: **We covet great material gifts, when you alone offer what is lasting. Through the work of this Lord Jesus, who comes among us full of grace and truth, forgive us, heal us, correct us. Then open our lips, that we may sing your praise with the angels, and remake our lives, that we may witness to your transforming love. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. In Christ, we are forgiven!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

### **THE PEACE**

Leader: As people who have received the abundant grace, love, and peace of God in the birth of Jesus, we are at peace with God, and we long to live in peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## **HEARING THE WORD OF GOD**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING** *(p. 1—NT)*

Matthew 1:18-24

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** *(p. 91—NT)*

John 1:1-18

### **SERMON**

Christmas in July???

Cheryl Rice

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

### **\*HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION # 110**

*"Love Has Come"*

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in God:  
who welcomes our laughter  
and moves us to wonder...**

**We believe in Christ:  
who welcomes our questions  
and loves us to trust...**

**We believe in Spirit:  
who welcomes our doubts  
and inspires us to faith.**

**This we believe! Amen!**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## **GOING OUT TO SERVE**

### **\*HYMN OF SENDING # 134**

*"Joy to the World"*

### **BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

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\*Please rise, in body or spirit.  
Music reprinted under CCLI license.

**Large-print Hymnals** are available in the back of the sanctuary; and **large-print bulletins** are on the table in the Narthex.

**Hearing Assist Devices** are located in the rear of the Sanctuary. Disposable ear buds are available for your convenience. They can be disposed after use in the labeled slot. **Please note**, only one ear bud receives signal, so please check both buds to determine that the unit is working. Contact the church office with any other issues.

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**WELCOME VISITORS!** We are glad you are here. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join with us in service to Christ.

**This morning we welcome Cheryl Rice back to the pulpit.** Cheryl is a former member of Covenant for 33 years. This congregation lovingly "raised" her and her three children. She is a Commissioned Ruling Elder in the Holston Presbytery and currently attends First Presbyterian Church in Kingsport where she moved 9 years ago.

## **ITEMS FOR UPCOMING GARAGE SALE**

We continue to accept items for the **Church Wide Garage Sale**, which is scheduled for Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds will go toward supporting Covenant's mission activities. We will accept any donated items, except for clothing. Items are being stored in the classroom next to the kitchen off the Fellowship Hall. (The basement storage area is FULL). The Habitat for Humanity "Restore" will receive all donated items that do not sell.

**We also need volunteers to help with organizing, pricing, and then working on the day of the sale.** If you feel led to help support this effort, contact any of the LWWMC members, or email Don Coble at [dwcoble1@gmail.com](mailto:dwcoble1@gmail.com).

The Local & World Wide Missions Committee thanks everyone for their support of this and all of Covenant's mission activities.

## **ONLINE GIVING**

Online Giving is available through our website at [www.cpcjc.org](http://www.cpcjc.org). Getting started is easy—just click on the **Online Giving** link. This is a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. *If you have any questions, please contact Tina in the church office.*

## **STATEMENT ON MASKS (REPRINTED)**

### **On behalf of Session and the Re-Opening Task Force:**

While we are cognizant of the most recent CDC guidelines, out of an abundance of caution, we advise that participants in activities at Covenant continue to wear masks at all times.

On a lighter note, singing may commence with masks in place.

Please understand that the CDC guidelines relaxing the wearing of masks apply to fully vaccinated individuals. Our informal poll of Covenant worship attendees found that approximately 20% are not vaccinated. There are some that are too young, are allergic, or are immunosuppressed and cannot be fully vaccinated. Furthermore, there may be some of our pulpit supply folks who may not be comfortable with the congregation not wearing masks.

Therefore, since we are all in this together, we feel that it is a small sacrifice to show our love for one another by wearing masks until we are sure that the risk of contracting the Covid 19 infection is very low.

## **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday – Thursday: 9:00a – 4:00p**

**The office is closed on Friday.**

Note that voicemail messages are forwarded to the church email, which Tina can access at any time, **so if you have an emergency, PLEASE leave a voicemail.** Tina will return your call as soon as possible. 423-282-5324.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Covenant Presbyterian Church exists to glorify and enjoy God. We live knowing that God calls us to be a place of love, support, hope and acceptance regardless of earthly labels. Jesus Christ commissions us to make disciples and passionately share our gifts with the world through prayer, teaching, and service. The Holy Spirit allows us to determine and carry out Christ's will for our lives and the life of our church and empowers us to seek out and respond to the needs of our local and global community.

## AFFIRMING ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

We at Covenant Presbyterian Church of Johnson City, Tennessee, under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church (USA), aka PC(USA), present its Churchwide Antiracism Policy, first adopted in 1999 and revised in 2016. It proclaims the following:

"While recognizing that racism victimizes many different racial ethnic groups, we acknowledge its unique impact on the African American community. Given the particular forms that anti-Black racism has taken in the United States of America, both historically (including slavery and Jim Crow) and today (including mass incarceration, disproportionate policing, economic inequality, and continuing acts of racially oriented violence and hate), we state clearly: GOD LOVES BLACKNESS. Too many have denied this basic truth for too long. Our choice to align ourselves with love and not hate requires both a rejection of racism and a positive proclamation that God delights in Black lives."

## CPC STATEMENT OF OPENNESS AND WELCOME

We aspire to Christ's model of openness and love for all persons. As God has welcomed us, we also welcome everyone into the life, leadership, and community of Christ's church, regardless of abilities, age, economic status, education, ethnicity, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, social position or any identity or status that might be perceived as separating us from God or one another.

We pledge to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of each of God's children, with membership, leadership, and employment open to whomever God calls.



In the event of emergency, be aware that our Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Unit is located on the wall outside the front door of the Church Office.



Covenant Presbyterian Church is proud to have received the designation of being an Earth Care Congregation, through the PC(USA).

Covenant Presbyterian Church has been certified as a **Recovery Congregation** by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.



## TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:  
Liturgist:

Jim Starr  
Ron Smith

## CHURCH STAFF

Music Director:  
Office Administrator:  
Administrative Assistant:

Jessica Siple  
Tina Simon  
Anne Webb

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### Week of July 11—17, 2021

Gary Salazar, friend of Cynthia Erdei.  
Vance Egan, friend of the Cobles.  
Pat Zembower, Christian's mother, is back in the hospital (from a nursing home) and has now been diagnosed with having cancer in her colon. Surgery is probable but nothing has been finalized yet. Please keep the family in your prayers.  
Traci Starr Honeycutt, Jim & Norma Starr's daughter, who continues her recovery at home.  
Gary Davis, Charlotte Corbett's son-in-law.  
Sarah Campbell, Sharon Fuhrman's granddaughter.

*Join us in continually lifting up in prayer our mission co-workers:*

Bob & Kristi Rice: South Sudan  
Jon & Kathy Christiansen: Zimbabwe  
*and Ministries of the Presbytery:*  
UKirk ETSU (Pres. Campus Ministry)  
Holston Presbytery Camp

## THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

### Today, July 11

8:30a  
9:45a  
11:00a  
1:00p  
7:00p

Issues Class on Zoom  
Sojourner's Class in person  
Worship Service  
Session Meeting  
N.A. Mtg

### Monday, July 12

10a—3p  
6:00p—8:00p  
7:00p

Good Sam Food & Garage Sale Items Dropoff  
Black/White Dialogue at Rotary Park  
NarAnon Mtg

### Tuesday, July 13

10a—3p  
10:00a  
7:00p  
7:30p

Good Sam Food & Garage Sale Items Dropoff  
Al-Anon Mtg  
Al-Anon Mtg  
PNC Mtg on Zoom

### Wednesday, July 14

10a—3p  
Noon—2:30p  
7:00p

Good Sam Food & Garage Sale Items Dropoff  
Sanctuary Reserved  
N.A. Mtg

### Thursday, July 15 – COURIER DEADLINE

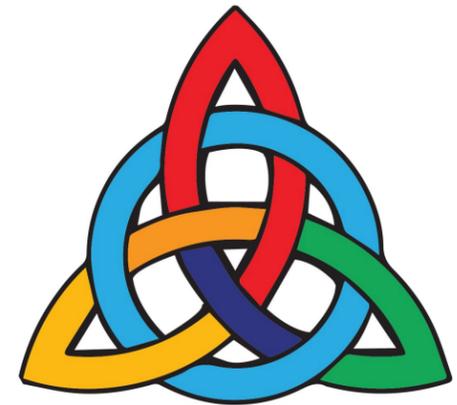
10a—3p  
Noon  
7:00p

Good Sam Food & Garage Sale Items Dropoff  
Al-Anon Mtg  
PNC Mtg on Zoom

### Friday, July 16

6:30p

Al-Anon Mtg



# Covenant

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

603 Sunset Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604

423-282-5324 ♦ fax 423-282-5346 ♦ office@cpcjc.org ♦ www.cpcjc.org

Facebook: "Covenant Presbyterian Church (Johnson City, TN.)"

Instagram: @covenantpcjohnsoncity

## JULY 11, 2021

### 7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

O God, we joyously come together to worship, realizing we need not summon you into our midst, for you are here. We need not call you into the secret places of our hearts, for you are there.

We need our eyes of faith to be opened, that we may see you; our ears to be unstopped, that we may hear you; our minds to be sensitive, that we may know you; our hearts to be tender, that we may receive you.

Grant each one a blessing, O Lord, as each has need, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen